Danita Pappas

Tech Assignment

21 November 2011

1. What are the key characteristics of authentic assessment?

Authentic assessment requires active participation and learning from the students. It is open ended and fosters higher level thinking as the students connect their learning with real world situations. The assessment is open ended and gives the students the opportunity for creative thinking to arrive at a final outcome that will most likely be different than their peers. Authentic assessment requires a lot of planning in order to be successful.

In music we use authentic assessments constantly! Performance based classes rely heavily on how the individual fits into the whole. Each teacher has a way to assess their students. My CT uses music proficiencies such as scales to assess the students. They have to perform the scale in front of the class and use correct articulation and intonation as well as play the correct notes in order to get a good grade. All of the music that they play is based on these essential building blocks and he wants them to connect how they fit into the music they play.

1. How do authentic assessments and traditional tests differ?

There are several ways in which they differ. For example, as I mentioned above the authentic assessments are open ended and foster higher level thinking while the traditional tests generally ask for student recall of specific information which is lower level thinking. An authentic assessment would embed the necessary information into a larger project. Traditional tests take place at the end of a unit, while in contrast authentic assessment is designed to examine a student’s performance and usually takes place throughout the unit. Traditional tests take content knowledge out of context while authentic assessment applies it to a real world situation.

1. Choose an example of an authentic assessment you find online that is appropriate to the subject and grade level you are observing or preparing to teach.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/Arts/PerformanceAssessments/default.aspx>

I chose the assessment entitled “Melody of Your Dreams”. In this assignment, the students compose an original melody on their own instrument for a car commercial. I may even use this idea or a form of this concept when I teach composition in the Spring!

It meets all 6 of the criteria on authentic assessment:

1. Active learning in which students construct their own understanding of the topic – **the student comes up with an original melody on the instrument of their choice. They have all creative control.**

2.Open-ended task with multiple opportunities to arrive at a conclusion **– No one’s composition will be the same. They have the same guidelines as far as length, but method and key and instrument and arrangement is totally left up to the student.**

3.Relation of the assessment to the subject content or process – **They are writing music!**

4.Student communication of learning through in-depth communication, i.e., orally, in writing, or in a product or performance- **This composition is written as well as recorded.**

5.Sharing of learning by students with an audience beyond the classroom – **I would take some of the better compositions and invite the students to perform them at a concert.**

6.Scoring rubric that provides specific criteria by which the student and/or teacher can evaluate the work. – **Rubric was included. It was 4 points and if all points were covered, the student received full credit on the assignment.**

1. Examine the diagram, Balancing the Two Faces of E-Portfolios. What are the two types of ePortfolios?

The two types of ePortfolios are those that are Workspace (process) and Showcase (product). The Workspace portfolio is more geared toward the learning process and is for the person creating the portfolio. The Showcase portfolio is to show someone else what the presenter has accomplished.

1. How are the two types of portfolios created?

The portfolios become a collection of evidence. They are organized either chronologically or thematically to share information with the desired audience.

1. In what ways are the two portfolios similar?

Both portfolios are a collection of artifacts used for interaction. They both need to be organized and have the element of reflection.